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Plague at Porte Allegre—Suspect plague at Rio Grande do Sul.

Under date of March 19, the United States consular agent at Rio Grande do Sul writes me as follows:

There appears to be a divergence of opinion amongst the medical men of Porte Allegre regarding the disease, some classifying it as bubonic plague, others as malignant typhus, ataxic fever, etc.

Regarding this city, about seven or eight weeks ago a young woman (Italian), apparently in good health, died suddenly under suspicious circumstances.

About ten days ago a man was taken to the Portuguese hospital suffering apparently from bubonic plague. The disease was verified and classified as such.

It is reported unofficially that sporadic cases have occurred in the suburbs, but I have not heard of any fatal cases.

Disinfection of vessels.

The disinfection of vessels sailing from here to ports of Brazil lying to the south of this port is performed at the quarantine station at Ilha Grande. The plant is a very excellent one, and its working has certainly been attended with very good results as regards the disinfection of vessels leaving here for northern ports, which are shown by the freedom of such disinfected vessels from disease after leaving this port.

Progress of sanitation in the State of São Paulo.

The members of the French yellow-fever commission, who have been here some months, have visited the sewerage works at Rio Claro and express themselves as highly pleased with what they saw and recommend these works as models for other Brazilian towns. The system is said to be particularly good. The way in which the State of São Paulo has faced and almost solved the sanitary problem would be creditable to any country. Only a few years ago not a single town in São Paulo had any sewerage system. Interior towns, like Campinas, were decimated by fever and depopulation was threatened. Now there is not a town of any importance without its own system, and within a few years there will not be a village that is not well supplied with water, drains, and sewers.

We have before us the report of the municipality of São Carlos do Pinhal, formerly one of the worst fever districts.

In 1901 the cases of infectious disease numbered 1,244, in 1902 1,143, and in 1903, on completion of the sewerage system, fell to 754 for a population of some 50,000.

Mortality report of Rio de Janeiro for week ended March 27.

During the week ended March 27 there were, in all, 289 deaths—a very considerable decrease from the previous week. Of these deaths 1 was caused by yellow fever, with 1 new case reported. At the close of the week there was 1 case of this disease in the hospital of São Sebastião. The death occurred in the case of a person residing in the district of Santa Anna, in the city. Plague caused 2 deaths, with 1 new case. Both deaths occurred in the Paulo Candido Hospital at

Jurajuba. At the end of the week there were but 9 cases, convalescent, in this hospital, so that it is not unreasonable to think that at a very early date there will be a total cessation of this disease here. It will then become a problem to prevent its reintroduction to this city from other plague-infected cities.

Variola caused 34 deaths, with 42 new cases, and at the close of the week there were still 75 cases under treatment at the Hospital São Sebastião. There were no deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, or dysentery. Grippe caused 11 deaths, measles 1, whooping cough 1, beriberi 2, leprosy 1, malarial fevers 12, and tuberculosis 38.

There were very heavy rains accompanied by very strong gales on March 25, 26, and 27, modifying very much the effects of the hot climate. The thermometer reached its maximum on March 24, 32.4 C., and its minimum on March 27, 20.8 C., with an average for the week of 24.42 C.

Variola in Santiago, Chile.

A dispatch of March 30 states that the epidemic of variola, which has existed now some months in that city, has lately increased in severity.

Causes of dysentery in Pernambuco.

There were 110 deaths from dysentery here in the two weeks ended March 15, 1904. It is claimed that the epidemic is due to some or all of the following causes: Heaping up of filth in open places owing to the incinerating plant not working, unusually hot weather, bad quality of cattle killed for meat, some said to be suffering from dysentery, and contaminated water. A large proportion of the deaths, both from malaria and dysentery, are among young children. This report is received from Consul Sewall under date of March 24, 1904.

CANADA.

Inspection of immigrants at St. John, New Brunswick.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Billings reports as follows: Month of March, 1904: Number of immigrants inspected, 504; number passed, 493; number detained, 11.

CHILE.

Plague declared at Antofogasta.

ANTOFOGASTA, CHILE, April 20, 1904.

Plague declared.

CONSUL.

CHINA.

Report from Hongkong—Rice probably plague infected.

Passed Assistant Surgeon White reports, March 19, as follows:

In conversation with the bacteriologist of the local board of health, respecting the transmission of plague, I stated that observation led